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MINISTER PRENTICE ANNOUNCES REAPPOINTMENT TO YUKON SURFACE RIGHTS BOARD

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OTTAWA (May 14, 2007) - The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, today announced the reappointment of Mr. F. Bruce Underhill to the Yukon Surface Rights Board (YSRB).

"We are pleased that Mr. Underhill will be returning to the YSRB," said Minister Prentice. "He has made valuable contributions to the work of this board and we look forward to his continued service."

Mr. Underhill, a Canada Lands Surveyor and B.C. Land Surveyor, has over thirty-six years of field experience. He has an extensive background of survey knowledge and is an experienced senior manager who has supervised many large projects in northern Canada with complex legal issues and detailed logistical planning. Mr. Underhill is an expert on the Quartz Mining Act, Photogrammetric project design and Land Titles Surveys.

The central role of the YSRB is to resolve disputes about access between owners of land (surface rights holders) and stakeholders with land access rights. When parties are unable to reach agreement, the board is petitioned to become involved. YSRB derives much of its authority from the Yukon Surface Rights Board Act in addition to several other statutes including the Placer Mining Act (Yukon), the Quartz Mining Act (Yukon), and individual Yukon First Nation Final Agreements.

The YSRB is composed of a Chairperson and a maximum of ten other appointed members. Board nominations are split equally between the Council of Yukon First Nations and the federal government, in consultation with the Government of the Yukon. Mr. Underhill was originally nominated to the board by the Government of Canada.

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